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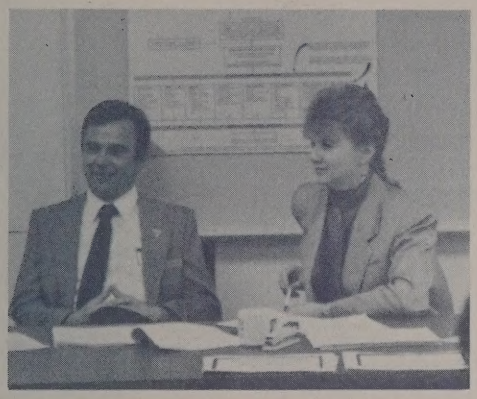
CENTER SCENE

The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter — *April 1989*

GCDB Data Collection Effort Launches



Jim Meek and Marilyn Myers assist contractors in Santa Fe

Business people from as far away as the East Coast and Alaska gathered at the Service Center in early March to learn more about a GCDB (Geographic Coordinate Data Base) data collection contract. The meeting was designed to familiarize prospective offerors with the solicitation and to answer any questions.

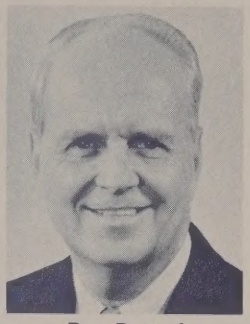
Service Center and New Mexico pilot project staff played a key role in organizing and hosting the event. Marilyn Myers, Chief of the Branch of Geographic Coordinates, and Ron Corsi, a contracting officer with the Target System Acquisition Staff, were in charge of events throughout the day. Members of the discussion panel included Bill Twenhofel and Troy Bunch of the Service Center; George Oviatt, Jim Meek, and Tom Spencer from the New Mexico State Office; and John Toms of the Alaska State Office.

The morning session featured a keynote address by Marilyn Myers and an overview of the solicitation by Ron Corsi. George Oviatt, Pilot Project Manager, discussed data collection procedures and the experiences arising out of the pilot project in New Mexico. The afternoon session was devoted to answering written and oral questions from the audience.

An onsite visit for over 100 contractors was conducted the following week in Santa Fe and in Anchorage, Alaska. It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded by August 15, 1989.

As a result of the preproposal conference, the Bureau's GCDB project is one step closer to realizing its ultimate goal: the creation of a national multipurpose cadastre.

THIRTY YEAR AWARD



Ben Rumph

Ben Rumph was presented his 30-year service pin on February 9. Ben began his government career in January 1959. He has served with the Federal Aviation Agency, Department of Defense, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Civil Service Commission, and the Bureau of Land Management. He is currently Chief of the Branch of Computer Applications.

Before his government service, Ben attended McMurry College in Abilene, Texas, and served in the U. S. Navy from 1955-1959.

According to Ben, "BLM is absolutely the finest outfit that a person could work for. The diversity of the programs that the Bureau is responsible for provides the opportunity for individual growth, both personal and professional. The people are what makes the outfit an outstanding place to work."

THE PLOT THICKENS

Have you ever wondered why there are big X's or circles painted on the centerlines of roads out in the middle of nowhere?

These markings often serve as control indicators for photogrammetric mapping. Photogrammetry involves the use of aerial photography and survey control points to map the land in three dimensions.

The Branch of Photogrammetry (SC-676), located on the first floor of Building 40, produces both manual and digital mapping products. In the past, the branch could produce only contour maps. Now, utilizing new digital technologies, the branch produces digital elevation models, digital line graphs, orthophoto products, autocad files, and translator files for Land Information System (LIS) applications. Then, by accessing software packages, cartographers can create not only contour maps, but also slope and aspect maps and perspective and 3D maps.

These digital products are currently being used by state, district, and resource area offices for applications such as road design, site planning for new offices and recreational areas, riparian studies, soils analysis, transportation studies, and volume calculations.

Come meet our people and see our equipment room. We'll be more than happy to show you our digital mapping products and their applications in the Bureau.

Russ Jackson, Chariton Stringham, Chuck Dodson, Mike Hutt, Mike Marchase, and Theresa Ely with their new stereoplotter

ALL ABOAR-R-R-D

Bob Moore and other BLMers embark on a day of fun

Sunday, March 19, started out as a beautiful day as the Rio Grande Ski Train left Union Station at precisely 7:30 am with 90 BLMers, family, and friends on board. The train wound its way through 30 different tunnels in the Colorado foothills and mountains before reaching the 6.21-mile-long Moffat Tunnel (6th longest in the world). Before entering the tunnel, passengers were told they had 12 minutes to prepare for disembarking the train at the Winter Park Resort.

From the train, it was a short walk to the ski area, where a central meeting place was established. Thirteen skiers took off for the slopes and five people set off for several hours of snowshoeing. Others took the shuttles into the neighboring towns or just roamed around the ski area. A few sat on the large patio area sipping coffee or hot cocoa and watched the skiers on the slopes.

After an early lunch, six members of the group set out on a 2-hour snowcat tour of the Winter Park Ski Area. From the resort, you have no idea how large the ski area really is, but this ride (bumpy though it may be) provides a fantastic view of the slopes. The cats do stop at several places along the way for picture taking, and the view from the top is just spectacular.

Around 3 pm most of the group was lounging around the patio area winding down from a fun day. Precisely at 4:15 pm (and the train does not wait for anyone), the group left the ski resort for the 2-hour ride back to Denver. As the sun was setting behind the hills, passengers on the train were treated to a beautiful view of Denver and the Great Plains. Back at Union Station, a happy but weary group of BLMers headed for their cars and home.

DICK BURKHOLDER RETIRES

Dick Burkholder is retiring. We know Dick as a friend and colleague driven to serve both BLM and the public interest. His wife, Lila, knows Dick as a dedicated family man and father to their children Scott, Joel, Jill, and Jim.

Dick has pursued a lifelong interest in land, land value, and land use. Raised on an Iowa farm, Dick studied Agricultural Economics. Thirty years ago he joined the Bureau as a Realty Specialist, first in the Montana State Office (1959-1962) and then in the Idaho State Office (1962-1973). With 14 years of on-the-ground land appraisal and land case experience, he joined the Service Center Division of Standards and Technology to work on tough cases as a consultant and to standardize case processing procedures.

Standards work led to assignments in developing user design requirements for automation and defining data elements during 1976 and 1978. By then, the hook was set; since then, automation of the Bureau's land and mineral case processing and records has provided continuing challenges.

Dick Burkholder

Dick does not intend to just sit in his rocking chair after his retirement. Instead, he plans to manage the wheat land he owns in Shawnee, Nebraska, continuing to pursue his lifelong interest in land and land use.

IT'S EITHER TOO HOT OR TOO COLD

Is it too hot? Too cold? Or just right? It is rare that all Building 50 employees can claim "just right" at the same time, and for good reason.

As walls are added or knocked down, thermostats which were once strategically located and meant to represent the average temperature in a specific zone might no longer be accurate. Blocking air outlets results in additional air being forced out through a different outlet, which causes further imbalance.

Another common problem is window area temperature. If you sit next to a window, you can expect significant heat loss in the winter and heat gain from the sun in the summer.

Aging pneumatically controlled thermostats can give false readings. Lines may be plugged or leaks may occur which allow moisture to adversely affect pressure sensitivity.

Dealing with extreme fluctuations in the weather, which are common in spring and fall, is a special challenge. GSA cannot switch from heat to air conditioning at will. GSA tries to monitor the weather and anticipate the optimal time to switch the system to air conditioning or heating. However, if there is one cold day in July, we cannot expect to just flip a switch for heat.

When you consider the above factors, it is understandable that temperatures vary within Building 50. If you experience significant discomfort from existing temperatures, notify the Branch of Office Services, Support Services Section, at extension 0664.

THANK YOU

Thank you for all you have done for Jack and me. There are no words that can express how I really feel.

Your donated hours, prayers, food, and money have been a comfort both during Jack's illness and at the time of his death.

Your expressions of concern from cards and calls have and continue to make the hard days easier.

Thank you. You will always be in the hearts of his family.

—The Family of John W. Headley